

**Chairman Chet Edwards Statement on Appointment of Gen. Shinseki as VA Secretary**

(Washington, D.C.) – U.S Representative Chet Edwards (D-Waco), Chairman of the House Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee, released the following statement on the expected nomination today of retired Army Gen. Eric Shinseki as Secretary of Veterans Affairs:

“Every veteran in America can be proud of this appointment. Eric Shinseki is a true American hero, a combat veteran who became Army Chief of Staff after losing a leg in Viet Nam. His impeccable integrity, his ability to manage a large organization and his lifelong commitment to those who have served in uniform will mean better health care and benefits for millions of our nation’s veterans.”

Since Democrats took control of Congress in 2007, Chairman Edwards authored and helped pass into law \$16.3 billion in increased funding for veterans’ health care and benefits, \$9 billion more than the White House requested and a larger increase in two years than the previous 12 years combined in Congress.